

REMARKS

With entry of the present amendment, the application will contain claims 1-8, and 10. All claims are under examination.

Support

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 8, and 10 can be found in the specification as filed at page 5, lines 6-9 and 24-26, and at page 7, beginning at about line 24.

Issues Under 35 USC § 112

The rejection of claims 2, 3 and 5 in the first and second paragraphs on page 2 of the last Office Action is traversed but has been rendered moot by the present amendments.

Issues Under 35 USC § 102

The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC § 102 over US patent 5,569,521 (Francoeur) in paragraph 5 of the last office action is traversed. Francoeur does not disclose the subject matter here claimed.

All claims are specifically limited to a maximum static frictional force within the range of 9.8 to 29 N. The Examiner alleges that the elastomers disclosed in Francoeur and the other cited references would produce the frictional force as claimed. The contrary is true. The frictional force of the elastomers

disclosed in the cited references is outside of the claimed range for the following reasons. The cleaning articles disclosed in the cited references remove hairs by lifting them up from the floor or the carpet. This is accomplished by the action of the sticky nature of the elastomers. In other words, hairs stick to the elastomer. In contrast to the prior art, in the claimed invention, hairs get entangled with each other into an aggregate. These hairs do not cling to the elastomer. The kind attention of the Examiner is respectfully invited to the second paragraph on page 5 of the specification. The reason that hairs get entangled with each other into an aggregate and the reason that they do not cling to the elastomer is set forth in the specification as filed in the first paragraph on page 5. As clearly there stated, it can be seen that hairs get entangled by the action of the difference in the frictional force. This important difference between the claimed invention and the prior art has now been incorporated into all pending claims.

Issues Under 35 USC § 103

The rejection in paragraphs 5-9 of the last office action is traversed. It would not be obvious to modify the references as suggested by the Examiner in order to arrive at the claimed invention. The arguments set forth above with respect to

35 USC § 102 are equally applicable to any rejection under 35 USC § 103.


CONCLUSION


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David R. Murphy (Reg. No. 22,751) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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